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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 216
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Gary W. Cunningham
on his receipt of the 1997 Good Guy Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary public servants who have evidenced their stalwart commitment to equality for all citizens by recognizing and utilizing women's special skills and talents as professionals; and

WHEREAS, Gary W. Cunningham has recently been honored with one of four 1997 Good Guy Awards; and

WHEREAS, the Good Guy Awards are presented annually by the Nashville Women's Political Caucus to men who uniquely promote and support women; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cunningham was honored as one of this year's "Good Guys" for his ongoing commitment to hiring and promoting women in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, he was nominated for this prestigious award by Drue Smith, the most distinguished female political correspondent in Tennessee newspaper history and the Dean of the Capitol Hill Press Corps; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cunningham is the President and Publisher of the *Green Hills News*, *Belle Meade News*, *West Meade News*, *West Side News*, *Nashville Today*, and *Nashville Jobs*; and

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WHEREAS, women hold important positions with all six newspapers published under the umbrella of his GCA Publishing; and

WHEREAS, his newspapers were the first in Nashville to give extensive coverage to women's political races, events and issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cunningham has further distinguished himself as a leader in expanding coverage of social news in Davidson County, an innovative practice quickly followed by Nashville's two daily newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Gary Cunningham started his illustrious newspaper career at an early age by delivering the *Nashville Banner* and *The Tennessean*; this humble beginning later proved to be an effective means of entry into the newspaper publishing business; and

WHEREAS, after proudly serving his country for two years in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, he received his degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after college, Mr. Cunningham worked for the Newspaper Printing Corporation, which prints the *Nashville Banner* and *The Tennessean*, and later served with acumen on the corporate staff of the Gannett Company, which owns *USA Today* and eighty-four daily newspapers; and

WHEREAS, he left *The Tennessean* in 1987 to join the Ingersoll Company, which then published two hundred newspapers; and

WHEREAS, based in St. Louis during his meritorious tenure with Ingersoll, Mr. Cunningham was responsible for nearly one hundred million dollars in revenues generated by forty-three newspapers that had a collective circulation of 900,000; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, he returned to Nashville and founded the *Green Hills News*, *Belle Meade News*, and *West Meade News*; he has since added *West Side News*, *Nashville Today*, and *Nashville Jobs* to his impressive list of publications; and

WHEREAS, the very epitome of the dedicated and hard-working professional, Mr. Cunningham is a valuable member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Suburban Newspapers and the Inland Press Association; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary public servant who realizes that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, he serves astutely on the board of directors of Belmont Mansion, Goodwill Industries, Junior Achievement, The Alzheimer's Association of Middle Tennessee, The Advisory Board of the Bank of Green Hills, and the Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Gary Cunningham has wisely recognized and employed the unique abilities and unrelenting dedication of women as professionals and has demonstrated his stalwart commitment to the advancement of women in the workplace, and he should be specially honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Gary W. Cunningham, an accomplished newspaper publisher, on his much deserved receipt of the 1997 Good Guy Award from the Nashville Women's Political Caucus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend Mr. Cunningham on his continued promotion and support of women as professionals in the workplace and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.